

is very expensive, and Medicaid also pays for home services for the frail and the disabled.

□ 1245

They want to cut Medicaid. They want to cut Medicaid and then send it to the State and say States can do it.

Well, I have been in the State government for 10 years as a State senator. They cannot do it if they do not have the money. So shaving this money and sending down the so-called block grant is no solution, because the States, in fact, under their new program, would be able to cut their funds.

This is not a balanced budget, not morally. It is an accounting device. But we want a balanced budget both from an accounting standpoint and a morally balanced budget that is fair to all Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLING). With respect to a prior speaker, the Chair would remind the Member to refrain from reference to demagoguery of the President or other Members.

CASTRO'S CRACKDOWN ON DIS- SIDENTS AND INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS DURING JANUARY CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, last week two Members of this House, a gentleman from Massachusetts and a gentleman from New Mexico, went to Cuba to meet with Castro. One told the press he was looking for flexibility on Castro's part to help him oppose the sanctions bill that the Congress is currently pursuing against the Cuban dictatorship. The other said he was seeking the release of some fugitives from American justice now in Cuba. I will now briefly outline some of the ways in which Castro reacted to these congressional visits and treated dissidents and independent journalists in Cuba just during these last few days.

JANUARY 14

Raul Rivero, Cuban poet and president of the independent Cuba Press agency, was arrested.

Juan Antonio Sanchez Rodriguez, another independent reporter, arrested in Pinar del Rio.

Jorge Adrian Ayala Corzo, president of the Democratic Renovation Party, was arrested.

Rafael Solano and Julio Martinez of the independent Havana Press were arrested.

JANUARY 15

Gladys Linares, Miguel Andres Palenque, Orlando Morejon were arrested.

Bernardo Fuentes, an independent journalist in Camaguey Province, was arrested.

Abel de Jesus Acosta, member of the Pro-Human Rights Party in Villa Clara Province, was arrested by State Security Lt. Boris Ruiz, his home ransacked and his motorcycle confiscated.

Jesus Zuniga, of the National Conciliation Movement, was arrested.

The parents of Yndamiro Restano, were detained and interrogated for over 14 hours. Their son Yndamiro Restano, is the president of the Bureau of Independent Cuban Journalists who is out of Cuba on a visitor's permit due to a petition made to Castro by Dannielle Mitterand. They were told that if the bureau does not cease its work, they, as parents of Restano, will be faced with long-term detention and their son will be banned from returning.

JANUARY 16

The gentleman from Massachusetts arrived in Cuba. That day a meeting by the opposition umbrella grouping Concilio Cubano was disrupted in Havana by state security agents. Participants including Elizardo Sanchez and Marta Beatriz Roque were threatened with arrest.

Alberto Perera Martinez, vice-president of the Bloque Democratico Jose Marti was arrested.

Lazaro Gonzalez, president of the Pro-Human Rights Party, was detained and threatened.

JANUARY 17

The gentleman from New Mexico arrived in Cuba.

Jose Miranda Acosta, a political prisoner in a dungeon known as Kilo 5½ in Pinar del Rio was tortured by having water drops fall throughout the day and night into his cell. He has been sentenced to 15 years of confinement, without family visits, due to enemy propaganda. As a result of his imprisonment, he is practically blind and suffering from extreme malnutrition. Miranda has had his food poisoned in the past as punishment for a 72-day hunger strike in 1994, which he carried out to try to draw attention to his case.

JANUARY 18

Olance Noguerras, vice-president of the Bureau of Independent Cuban Reporters, was detained after asking a question at a press conference held by the gentleman from Massachusetts in Havana.

Eugenio Rodriguez Chaple, president of the Democratic Bloc Jose Marti, was run off the road and injured by state security while on his way to meet with French Embassy officials.

Leonel Morejon Almagro, Concilio Cubano member, was detained and told that his family would suffer serious consequences if he continued to participate in Concilio and that the Interior Minister Colome Ibarra was giving him his last chance.

JANUARY 19

Both Congressmen returned from Cuba.

That day, Roxana Valdivia, an independent journalist was questioned at

state security headquarters in Ciego de Avila and threatened with exile or prison for disseminating enemy propaganda.

During the days of the congressional visits, the thousands of Cuban prisoners of conscience continued suffering the same savage brutality that they continue to suffer to this very moment. Col. Enrique Labrada continues to receive electroshock torture at the Mazorra institution for the mentally ill. Labrada was sent there after staging a pro-democracy protest last year. The Reverend Orson Vila remains in prison for preaching the word of Christ. A 30-year-old writer, Carmen Arias, remains in a dungeon for sending a letter to Castro asking for free elections, as do Sergio Aguiar Cruz, Francisco Chaviano, Omar del Pozo, and thousands of others.

Upon his return one Congressman declared that Castro is very flexible.

The other Congressman said that he had gotten Castro to reduce the amount of dollars that Castro charges some Cubans who are leaving Cuba, and that that constitutes a humanitarian gesture.

Mr. Speaker, what will it take for the world to help Cuba free itself of its tyrant?

Imagine if this were happening in apartheid South Africa or Pinochet's Chile.

CONSIDER PRIORITIES DURING BUDGET CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was very surprised and disappointed when I saw that the Republican leadership walked away from the budget negotiations with the President about a week ago.

Frankly, I thought that the President went very far, maybe even too far, just before we adjourned 2 weeks ago when he not only agreed to a balanced budget, which we all support, but agreed to a 7-year budget, put it on the table, agreed to put forward a budget that was based on CBO estimates. The President essentially did everything the Republicans asked for as part of the negotiation and, instead of reacting and saying, OK, now we have a 7-year budget and it is CBO and it uses our numbers, instead of sitting down and saying now we can work out the differences over our priorities and still protect Medicare and Medicaid and the environment and education, instead they said, "No, that is not good enough. We are going to walk out. We don't want to have any negotiations." That is incredible.

We have gone on now for, I guess, about 6 months, and all during that time the Republican leadership has said that they supported the priorities of Medicare and Medicaid and also to